

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claim 21 has been amended. Claims 1-8, 11, 12 and 14-20 have been cancelled. Thus, claims 9, 10, 13 and 21 are pending. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 9, 10, 13 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,923,627 to Miwa et al. ("Miwa") in view of Applicant's admitted prior art ("AAPA"). Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over AAPA in view of U.S. 6,282,320 to Hasegawa *et al.* ("Hasegawa").

The Office Action has indicated that claim 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In view of this allowable subject matter, claim 21 has been amended to include the features of now cancelled claim 14.

Therefore, for at least this reasons, Applicants respectfully submits that claim 21 is patentable. Claims 9-10 and 13 depend from claim 21 and are patentable for at least their dependence from claim 21, and for the additional features they recite.

Having addressed each of the foregoing objection and rejections, it is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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